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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/626,622	07/25/2003	Yong-Pil Park	1594.1236	9368

21171 7590 06/14/2005

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EXAMINER

WILKENS, JANET MARIE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3637

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/626,622		PARK, YONG-PIL	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Janet M. Wilkens		3637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 and 30-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 26-29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/25/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Namely, it does not appear that there is enough room for the sliding doors to slide to their open positions (see Fig. 2); the main refrigerator door does not appear wide enough to allow for this type of movement.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-11 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. For claim 1, "the door" lacks antecedent basis. For claim 24, "the rotary member" lacks antecedent basis.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baker et al. Baker teaches a refrigerator with doors (26,28). In one of the doors is a storage unit (22) having a pivotally mounted outside door (42) and a pivotally mounted inside door (58).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 12-18, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ha in view of Hoffman. Ha teaches a refrigerator (Fig. 1) comprising: a compartment, a door (3) with an opening (4), a home bar in the opening and a bar door (6). For claims 1, 12-15, 17, and 18, Ha fails to teach an automatic door opening unit. Hoffman teaches an automatic door opening unit (Fig. 2; 42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

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time of the invention to add a door opening unit, such as the unit taught by Hoffman, as part of the bar/door assembly of Ha, to provide a means to assist in opening the bar door when desired. Note: the weight of the door of Ha as well as gravity would also help in opening the bar door.

Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ha in view of Hoffman as applied to claims 1, 12-18, 30 and 31 above, and further in view of Baker et al. As stated above, Ha in view of Hoffman teaches the limitations of claim 1, including a pivotally mounting bar door and automatic door opening unit. The pivot assembly comprising link members (20). For claim 2, Ha in view of Hoffman fails to teach hinge shafts as part of the door pivot assembly. Baker teaches a door pivot assembly comprising both link members (122) and hinge shafts (154). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add hinge shafts, such as is taught by Baker, to the door Ha in view of Hoffman (with corresponding openings in the refrigerator door), to provide lower pivotal supports to the pivoting bar door.

Claims 5-7 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ha in view of Hoffman as applied to claims 1, 12-18, 30 and 31 above, and further in view of Arakawa et al. As stated above, Ha in view of Hoffman teaches the limitations of claims 1 and 15, including a pivotally mounting bar door and automatic door opening unit. For claim 5-7 and 19-22, Ha in view of Hoffman fails to teach a door latch unit. Arakawa teaches a door latch unit (Fig. 7) with a slide unit (23); an elastic member (4) and a hook unit (25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

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invention to add a door latch, such as is taught by Arakawa, to the door Ha in view of Hoffman, to provide a means to securely keep the bar door closed, when desired.

Claims 8, 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ha in view of Hoffman as applied to claims 1, 12-18, 30 and 31 above, and further in view of Inoue. As stated above, Ha in view of Hoffman teaches the limitations of claims 1 and 15, including a pivotally mounting bar door and automatic door opening unit. The pivot assembly comprising link members (20). For claims 8 and 23, Ha in view of Hoffman fails to teach hinge shafts as part of the door pivot assembly and a damping unit to reduce the rotating speed of the shafts. Inoue teaches a door pivot assembly comprising hinge shafts (4) and a damping member (7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add hinge shafts and a damping unit, such as is taught by Inoue, to the door Ha in view of Hoffman (with corresponding openings in the refrigerator door and in place of the link members presently used), to provide a lower pivotal supports to the pivoting bar door and a means to control movement of these supports. Also for claim 25, it would have been obvious to use plural damping units, one for each hinge shaft assembly, to further control movement of the supports.

Claims 11 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ha in view of Hoffman as applied to claims 1, 12-18, 30 and 31 above, and further in view of Evans. As stated above, Ha in view of Hoffman teaches the limitations of claims 1 and 15, including a pivotally mounting bar door.

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and automatic door opening unit. Ha further teaches a light unit (18). For claims 11 and 32, Ha in view of Hoffman fails to specifically teach a light switch assembly in connection with the light unit. Evans teaches a light (32) with a switch assembly (36) tripped by a door. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a switch assembly in combination with the bar door and light unit of Ha in view of Hoffman, such as is taught by Evans, to provide a means to automatically turn on and off the light in the opening/door bar via opening and closing the door.

Claims 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker et al in view of Hare. As stated above, Baker teaches the limitations of claim 33, including inside and outside doors for a door storage unit. For claims 34 and 35, Baker fails to teach that the inside door comprises a pair of doors that slide. Hare teaches inside and outside door assemblies (Fig. 1) wherein one portion pivots (W) and the other slides (28). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use an alternate door assembly for the inner door of Baker, i.e. using sliding doors such as is taught by Hare instead of the pivot door presently used, to provide an inside door assembly that would not require outside/additional space during and after its opening process. Furthermore, these door assemblies are functional equivalents and it appears that either type of assembly would work equally well for the inside door assembly of Baker.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9, 10 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

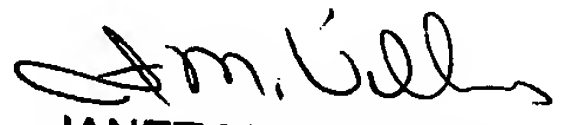
Claims 26-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janet M. Wilkens whose telephone number is (571) 272-6869. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wilkens
June 13, 2005


JANET M. WILKENS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3637